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This copy taken from a letter in the possession of my uncle, Frank Simon, LaOtto, Ind.

Copy;

By request I received the following from cousin Andrew Simon of Columbiana County, Ohio, through his nephew S. A. Workman, in regard to the history of the Simon Family.

New Lisbon, Columbiana County, Ohio.  
January 21, 1884.

Mr. S. A. Workman,  
Swan, Noble Co. Indiana.  
My Dear Nephew;

Your letter was received and will try to comply with your request or rather perhaps with that of our respected cousin Charles Simon through you.

Most of what is known of our great ancestor is traditional and, therefore, is a matter of course imperfect and may be wanting also in correctness. My father has in his hands the family record of his parents, containing a list of all the names and births of his brothers and sisters with the exception of the oldest and the youngest. The record appears to have been made or written at a later date, father says it was written by a school teacher and before my father, he being the youngest was born, for his name is not included in the list and after the oldest had died, for her name is also wanting. She died in her youth. On this record the names of our great ancestors also appear as sponsors of one of the children at its baptism.

Adam Simon, therefore, and Mary Elizabeth his wedded wife were the great ancestors of the now numerous family of Simons in North America. Of their nativity birth and time of emigration we know nothing. That they were of German descent, I think is generally ~~assumed~~ <sup>pranted</sup> but whether they came from Germany, I don't know, nor does my father, only that it was assumed that they were from Germany from their language. Tradition says that the Bible in which the family record was kept was destroyed by fire at the time when Andrew one of their boys was captured by the Indians who also set fire to the house and burned it together with its contents.

According to my father's recollection, this Adam Simon 1st had a family of four sons and five daughters. The names of the boys were Michael, Andrew, Nicholas, and Jacob and the names of two of the girls were Catherine and Angelica Elizabeth, the names of the other three, father does not remember. Michael Simon (2) for a history of Michael, the oldest father thinks and of his family in general, I would refer our cousin Charles to some one of the descendants of the lineage of that numerous family of Simons. Father remembers that this Michael (2) lived in Washington County, Pennsylvania and afterwards moved to Boardman township in Mahoning County, Ohio with Michael (3) the oldest of the boys father was more intimately acquainted. He remained in Pennsylvania and reared a large family and died a few miles from where father was born and reared. I too was acquainted with some of the family and will give the names of them in rotation from the oldest if my memory serves me right.

the oldest of the boys I think was Michael (4), he being the 4th in the lineage from our first and great progenitor whom I have marked Adam (1) then

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FAMILY  
PORTLAND & ALLEN CO., IND.

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2/86



there were John, George, David, and Andrew and the girls, Mary, Lizzie Margaret, Sarah, Catherine and Julia of the first wife; Jacob, Jonas, and Robert of the second. fourteen in number. Of Sarah, your mother must know something, yet, if she don't, your Aunt Rebecca, does. This Sarah Simon came with us when we moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio in the spring of 1835 and had her home with us for some time. The last I saw her was in the winter of 1856. Two of John's daughters were married to my first cousins (brothers) Samuel and Jonathan (-) Whansettler of Washington County, Pennsylvania.

Nicholas Simon (2). Of Nicholas, Father knows but little only that he had a farm only about a mile from where father was born and moved to Ohio, perhaps to Trumbull Co. while he (father) was small yet.

Jacob Simon (2). With Jacob and his family father had some acquaintance, when he was a youth yet often wonders what has become of all that numerous family, twelve in number. They lived on Wheeling Creek in West Virginia.

Of the daughters (2). One of the girls was married to a (Stall) Stahl of his whereabouts nothing is known. Another of the girls was married to Reil# (Wright) father thinks they lived in Western Tennessee. A third one was married to Michael Beltz. Not much of them is known. I can mind yet when one of this Michael Beltz's boys, but an old man then was at our house, perhaps 25 years or more ago. His name was Adam and then lived in Hardin County, Ohio. A fourth one, but I don't know anything about the rotation in which they come in regard to their age was married to a man Stark or Strong as he was called in English. They lived in Huntingdon Co. Pennsylvania. They were the parents of Phillip Strong, your mother finds of him yet. He had his ~~home~~ home with us several years. He died in February 1849 being some 70 years old. The last of the girls I don't know whether oldest or youngest was married to a widower, George Dentzer by name and lived on a farm joining the one on which father was born and reared and was, therefore, more acquainted with the family. Her name was Catherine. This George Dentzer had emigrated from Germany and on the way across the ocean his wife and three children died and found their final resting place in the depths of the Atlantic. When he arrived to this land of liberty he was sold into slavery—his effects consisting perhaps mainly of clothing together with a large chest of linen goods such as table cloths which were taken from him and he was sold to the highest bidder into servitude for seven years to pay his fare over the ocean. He was a weaver by trade. They had four children according to father's memory named John, George, Angelica and Elizabeth h. John was no doubt grand or great grandfather to the Dentzers in your parts. George was married to my mother's aunt Barbary Whansettler. Elizabeth was married to Casper Beltz and they were the parents of Michael, John, George, Henry and ~~####~~ Barbary Beltz. Your mother can tell you some of the beltz's, especially of George and Berry. Angelica was married to Peter Hartman one of the sons (Samuel) was married to my mother's sister Eve is therefore my aunt and your great aunt. They lived in Wayne Co. Ohio. Andrew Simon (2). This Johann Andreas Simon although mentioned last in my story of the great ancestor family of Simons in America was the second of the boys and the one to whom I am the more closely related being my grandfather. Andrew (2) was born about the year 1751



east of the Allegany mountains near a place called Shippensburg, perhaps in Adams Co. Penn. where his parents then lived. When he was ~~about~~ about 12 years old, in the spring of 1763 he was captured by the Indians. He was in the sugar camp at the time. After they had caught him they placed him under the care of a party of the gang while the rest prowled around for further opportunities to kidnap, plunder, murder, and burn buildings. Several of the gang went to the house of his parents, but they after seeing the Indians after Andrew had left and fled to the fort some seven miles distant. The Indians finding no one at the house seated themselves on the wood pile in front of the house to await the return of the inmates. While they sat there Michael (2) who was away on horse back and knew nothing of the affair did come home. After he came in sight of the house he saw men sitting on the wood pile but took them to be soldiers. A short distance from the house he had to get off to open a pair of bars and after he was over and had laid up the bars and was on his horse again he saw the men on the wood pile were Indians. He did not stop long to think but instantly wheeled his horse around made spring the bars and put for the fort. The Indians seeing that they were detected and that their victim was making his escape fired after him. Michael said afterwards that he heard one bullet pass by his ears, saw one strike the ground on front of his horse and a third took the horse in the rump. He made good his escape got to the fort all right but the horse died. But our Andrew the Indians led captive together with other prisoners along the steep paths ~~across~~ across the mountains to the river somewhere above where Pittsburg is now. Where that with a party of Indians were put in a canoe and thus rowed down the river, passing the fort Duquesne, I presume which the French had abandoned a short time before and was now in the possession of the colonists. After night the prisoners had to lie down in the boat so as not to be detected by the soldiers in the fort. They were taken down the river and into the country now State of Ohio to where the Indians then had their towns and settlements. He afterwards thought it was where Chillicothe now the county seat of Ross County. Here hundreds of miles from home, separated from his parents and everything that was dear as life to him among the savage Indians in a wild Forest our youth of twelve summers was a prisoner for nine months. According to a custom of the Indians he was presented to an old Indian squaw to fill the place of a son she had killed in war and who it appears adopted him to be her son. He was intelligent and his Indian mother, as he was want to call her could talk some English so he readily acquired a knowledge of their language and was very useful to her in doing chores and running errands. His Indian mother had a cow which became Andrew's business to attend to. He had to bring her in from the woods in the evening, milk her, have her tied over night so as to have her to milk in the morning. It was this circumstance that he thought he owed the preservation of his life to some extent. After night when the Indians were asleep he would at times visit the cow and help himself to some of the milk. His foster mother however he said was very good and kind to him, would often take food from her own children and give to him, saying that they were more used to being hungry than the whites. The Indians lived mostly on game and roots and at times their supply was short of the demand. They raised





some corn, the ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ was the work of the women. The work of the men was to furnish sage and carry on war. When the corn was in roasting ears they had a general feast. The men would lay in a supply of game which together with the cooked or roasted corn furnished an abundance for the occasion, to which feast were invited especially all the poor, the old and crippled who would occupy the first seats and if any were left it was given to them to take home. He was lucky that the time of his captivity was during the summer season. His liberation was brought about in this wise; Some great general in command of the troops stationed in the fort where Pittsburg now is sent a message to the Indians demanding the release of all the white prisoners with the instruction that if they did not comply with the demand he would send troops to destroy all their towns and property which had the happy result of liberating 275 white prisoners. Some of the prisoners were grown up men and women, many of whom were captured when small no doubt. Some were even married to Indians and had children and were so attached to the Indians and so used to their ways of living that they would have preferred to stay with the Indians. On the way some had to be guarded to keep them from returning and yet some did get away and return to the Indians. He said his Indian mother when he parted from her cried that you could have heard her scream at a great distance and entreated him to return to the Indians again where he would have it much better than with the white people where he would have to plow, make rails, etc. While with the Indians he would not have anything to do but go with the men when they went hunting etc. When the expedition arrived at the fort now Pittsburg with their liberated prisoners there were quite a number of canons fired to give expression of the joy over the liberation of so many prisoners from the wild and savage Indians and to be enabled to restore them to their homes and friends, where there was no doubt great joy, and ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ here the story of the capture and liberation of my grandfather Andrew Simon (2) ends. My Father well remembers the time when his father would relate to them as children about the Indians of their mode of living, of his Indian Mother, how kind she was to him, would often to their amusement talk Indian and tell them how the Indians counted. He said an Indian could not count more than ten but they well knew that ten times ten make a hundred, so that their mode of counting did not differ much from ours, only little in form. When they as children would complain of being hungry he would tell them that they knew not what it was to be hungry.

This Johann or John Andrew Siron(2) was Married to Mary Elizabeth Geckler and lived east of the mountains until after four were born to them namely; Margaret (3) Jacob (3) Elizabeth(3) George(3). There is no record of Margaret(3) who died in her younger years and no doubt before a record was written. Jacob(3) was born Dec.4, 1778 and Elizabeth(3) was born probably 1782 the record of her birth was cut out of the list and left withher in Pennsylvania when her father moved to Chic. George(3) or John George was born Jan. 14,1784. When George was an infant perhaps three or four years old, they moved over the mountains to Washington County, Pa. and this was quite an undertaking or would be in ourday for there were no roads, only narrow paths through the mountains. His father Adam(1) the great and first ancestor had previously moved to Washington co. and no doubt the whole family had moved out before ~~1784~~ Andrew, only was tarrying east of the mountains. I often heard my mother





tell about grandfather's moving. She had the story from grandmother Simon. they lived together some ten years. Grandmother did not forget their moving even to her old age. They were nine days on the road and it rained about every day. All their effects together with their four children they carried on two horses. George the baby was sick all the way. Part of the way or some days his mother had to walk, lead the horse and carry him in her arms, the baby not being able to bear the jolting of the horse and Jacob a little short legged lad of some five summers would get so tired of riding astraddle the back of the horse that he too would be trudging by her side, hanging to her dress. Grandfather had the two girls on his horse. While living in Washington County they had six more children born unto them, namely Susanna born April 30th, 1786. Mary Barbara was born Dec. 31, 1788. John Andrew Dec. 4th, 1791. Mary Catherine born Jan. 20, 1794. Peter was born April 30th, 1796 and Adam born November 7, 1799. Of these ten children two died in their younger years; namely, Margaret as related before, and Catherine who was grown when she died. Jacob (3) died 18- was married to Elizabeth #### Deger and lived in Boardman Twp. Mahoning Co. Ohio and had six (6) children two boys and four girls, namely George. Jacob died 1825 and Lizzie died 187-. Catherine Susanna And Mary Elizabeth died 1865 was married to Nicholas Whansettler, they lived in Washington Co. Penn. and had two children, Samuel and Jonathan died in 186-. George (3) died in 1872 was married to Elizabeth Huet. They first lived in Salem Twp. Columbiana County. Ohio in 1836, they moved to Allen Co. Indiana. They had twelve children, five boys and seven girls, namely; Jonathan. Samuel died 18-. David 18-, and Solomon and Lydia died 18-, Elizabeth died 18-, Sarah Ann died 18-. Catherine and Rachel and Mary Ann died 18-, who died small. Susanna (3) died 18-, was married to John Tressler first lived in Salem Twp. Columbiana Co. Ohio. They moved to Holmes Co. then to Wyandotte Co. Ohio where Aunt Susanna (3) died. They Had six children. John Isaac, Dina, And Elizabeth; Two died when small, Barbara (3) was married to Christopher Bair first lived in Columbiana Co. Ohio, then moved to Holmes County, Ohio where aunt Barbara (3) died. They had ten children, six boys and four girls; namely Simon, Rudolph, Jacob died 18-, Samuel and Jonathan. ##### Sarah died 18-, Betsey, Barbary, and Rebecca. Andrew (3) was married to Mary Miller. They first lived in Salem Twp. Columbiana Co. Ohio in 1852 they moved to Noble Co. Indiana where he died in 1853. They Had eight children, Elizabeth, Moses, Sarah, Lydia, Mary Magdalena, Jacob died 1869. Charles. Joseph. Sarah died 1836. Peter (3) died 1861 was married to Catherine Deger. They first lived in Salem Twp. Columbiana Co. Ohio. In 1852 they moved to Noble County, Indiana. There Uncle Peter died and aunt died in 1859. They had ten children, Susanna, Joseph died in infancy, Daniel, Rebecca, Catherine died 185-, Leah 18-, Jacob, Henry, Anna died 1860, and Solomon died 1861 or 1862. Adam (3) was married to Susanna Whansettler who died in 1869. They first lived in Washington Co. Pennsylvania after the death of his parents they moved to Salem Twp. Columbiana Co. Ohio in the spring of 1835. They had twelve children, Andrew, Rebecca, Catherine, Elizabeth, Philip, Abraham, Susanna, Mary #### Anne, Jonas died 1866. Adam, Samuel, died 1862 and David. The number (1) (2) (3) signify the first, second and third generation.

Adam Simon, who was the progenitor of



the numerous Simons in America probably came from Germany 1735 and died 1788 at the age of 73 years. He was married in 1740 to Miss Mary Elizabeth Deihl in Maryland. He moved from Maryland to Washington Co. Pennsylvania in 1782 where he died and is buried in the German Lutheran Cemetery near his residence. The said Adam Simon and his wife Mary Elizabeth Simon were the parents of four sons and five daughters whose names and history is as follows; Michael the oldest son was born Jan. 2, 1741 and died May 30th 1839, age 98 years and is buried in the Lutheran cemetery in Mahoning Co. Ohio at the time of his death he had 185 off spring. Nicholas was married in Washington Co. Pennsylvania and afterwards moved to Trumbull Co. Ohio. Jacob lived in Wheeling Creek, W. Va. and had twelve children. Andrew, my grandfather, was born 11 1751 near Shippensburg, Pa. in Adams County, when twelve years old in the spring of 1763, he was taken prisoner by the Indians for nine months. He was married to Mary Elizabeth Geckler and lived east of the mountains until four of their children were born. Catherine was married to George Dencer, a widower who came from Germany and lost his wife and three children in coming across the Atlantic Ocean and were buried in the same. When he arrived in America he was sold into servitude or slavery for seven years to pay his ship fare over the ocean, also a large chest of clothing and linen goods were also taken from him, he was a weaver by trade. They had four children namely; John, George, Angelica, and Elizabeth, John no doubt was the great grandfather of the Dencer in Indiana.

Received copy  
December 24th, 1946.

Harold Barnes.













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